

THE CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

MINUTES AND REPORT

O F

MEETING OF COUNCIL

held at 225 Swanston Street, Melbourne on Monday, 16th May 1983 commencing 4.15 p.m.

1. PRESENT

Mr. J. N. Black	Chairman
Mr. E. J. Long	
Mr. B. H. Macintosh	
Mr. J. Mitchell	
Mr. J. Rigby	
Mr. G. J. Simm	
Mr. O. J. Slattery	
Mr. W. W. Rawlinson	Executive Officer

In attendance:

Mr. B. Greer	Business Adviser, Employment Co-operative Development Programme
--------------	--

Apologies for non-attendance received from:

Mr. A. Dash, Mr. A. Gill, Mr. M. Rundle

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held 18th April 1983, having been circulated, were received and confirmed as a correct record of that meeting on the motion of

	Mr. Macintosh
seconded	Mr. Long

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- 3.i To and from Mr. W. Jungwirth on retirement from Registrar of Co-operative Societies appointment
- 3.ii From Co-operative Insurance Company of Australia Ltd.
 - appreciation for assistance rendered in obtaining Registrar's certificate of co-operative status.
- 3.iii From Ministry Employment and Training
 - naming team to undertake evaluation of Employment Co-operative Development Programme and seeking co-operation of Federation in this study.
- 3.iv From D. Eizenberg and Chairman, Economic History Dept., University of Melbourne
 - seeking Federation assistance in undertaking research for thesis on "A History of the Co-operative Movement in Victoria 1953-1988" for Master of Commerce Degree.

The correspondence was received on the motion of

seconded Mr. Mitchell
Mr. Simm

4. FINANCIAL

Statement of Income and Expenditure in respect of the Co-operative Federation of Victoria, including funds supplied by Government for the Employment Co-operative Development Programme for the period 1.7.82 to 30.4.83 and an estimated Balance Sheet as at 30th April 1983 were presented, discussed and received on the motion of

seconded Mr. Slattery
Mr. Rigby

5. 1983 CONFERENCE

The Executive Officer advised that all speakers have accepted invitations, including the Victorian Minister for Police, Mr. Race Mathews, to open the Conference.

Council directed that maximum effort must be made to promote the programme including forwarding sufficient copies of the Programme to each member unit to enable each director to be supplied and also to use ABC Rural Dept.

6. FUTURE OF CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

6.i Council considered a proposed operating budget for the Federation excluding services for the Employment Co-operative Development Programme and the Co-operative Federation of Australia for the financial year ending 30th June 1984 providing for estimated income of \$63,000 and expenditure of \$74,450 including salary of an Executive Officer and ownership of a motor vehicle.

Council agreed:

- (i) Membership subscriptions should continue at same rate for the ensuing year as for 1982/83.
- (ii) Projected deficit could be serviced from accumulated funds but the need to establish a capacity for development of income generating services is immediate.
- (iii) Developments associated with termination of services for the Co-operative Federation of Australia at 30th June 1983 for which final liability not yet advised could affect the accumulated funds balance at 30th June 1983.

Council resolved:

- (a) *To adopt the operating budget for the year ending 30th June 1984 appended to the file copy of these minutes subject to adjustment by developments that may occur in the termination of the professional operations of the Co-operative Federation of Australia secretariat.*

- (b) *To retain the services of the existing honorary Executive Officer under the terms of the approved budget*
- (c) *The President and Vice President be authorised to negotiate acceptable terms of engagement with the Executive Officer.*

Moved *Mr. Slattery*

seconded *Mr. Long*

6.ii Council agreed:

services for development should initially include

- (a) Centralised Banking service;*
- (b) Bulk Insurance policies;*
- (c) Bulk purchase of fuel*

In regard to (a) preliminary studies to include relative costs/benefits of and legislative authority for operating

alone

*through Co-operative Federation of New South Wales
through Victorian Credit Co-operative Association
through commercial cash management body*

In regard to (b) assistance of Registrar to be obtained to ensure all registered Co-operatives are circulated.

In regard to (c) Council recorded its appreciation to Messrs. Macintosh and Simm for the exploratory studies undertaken in the Gippsland Region and agreed a meeting of all known fuel selling/user Co-operatives in the State be convened in Melbourne to continue the study to a conclusion.

6.iii Council agreed

application should be made for funding under the Government's Employment Initiatives Programme for

an accountant

a junior typist

to establish and develop these services to a stage of income generation to cover additional staff costs by date of expiry of grant, if obtained, and additional revenue for the Federation.

6.iv Council agreed

not to tender for continuance of Secretariat to Council Co-operative Federation of Australia under the auspices of the Co-operative Federation of Victoria beyond 30th June 1983.

7. REPORTS

7.i Community Employment Co-operatives Development Programme

7.i.i Mr. Greer reported that funded Co-operatives in the Programme have been invited to nominate 3 representatives to meet Council representatives to discuss the proposal to establish a Co-operative Development Agency and relationships with the Co-operative Federation.

7.i.ii He advised that the Minister's appointed Evaluation Study Team is required to conclude its study by 31st May 1983. A discussion paper outlining desirable structure and services of a Co-operative Development Agency excluding reference to the auspices under which it might operate will be completed by the Business Advisory Unit, cleared with the Federation's Executive Officer, and will be submitted to the Evaluation Study Team before completion of its studies as a tactical exercise to provide that team with considered views on desirable developments in the Programme. It is not considered a Co-operative Development Agency, if formed, would conflict with or compete for services of the Co-operative Federation. Rather, as a service for funded Co-operatives under the Programme and researcher into initiatives for development conversion programmes of companies to industrial co-operatives it should be seen as a complementary service.

The discussion paper will be circulated to Council as soon as available.

7.i.iii Mr. Greer advised that as the Programme is virtually in suspension until action on the report of the Evaluation Study Team is known, an interim budget for the Business Advisory Unit as part of the Co-operative Federation is to be prepared for the period 1.7.83 to 31.12.83 for submission to the Ministry.

7.ii Co-operative Societies Advisory Council

Mr. Long reported he and the Executive Officer attended a meeting of this Council on 12th May 1983. He advised that the Registrar's Discussion Paper, circulated to members of the Federation Council, is subject to confirmation of the Minister. Preliminary discussion in the Advisory Council on a possible reconstituting of the Advisory Council had indicated that continued representation from the Co-operative Federation would be expected.

The Federation Council agreed

that the Ministry Discussion Paper be referred to the Legislation Committee for study and submission of recommendations to the next meeting of the Council.

7.iii Co-operative Federation of Australia

After general discussion Council agreed

that the Co-operative Federation of Australia operating with honorary staff superimposed on the services of a State Federation should continue in a positive way with activities relating to

(a) *Development of a Co-operative Bank*

(b) *Maintaining continuous liaison with
Federal Government Departments of*

*Treasury
Finance
Primary Industry
Education and Youth Affairs
Employment and Industrial Relations
Foreign Affairs - Overseas Aid*

(c) *Providing research material on Co-operative development interstate and overseas to assist Australian Co-operatives*

(d) *Providing bi-annual international training programmes under contract with Australian Development Assistance Bureau*

(e) *Liaison with media and issue of Press releases as relevant.*

7.iv Executive Officer

Mr. Rawlinson reported that since the last meeting he had participated in meetings of

(a) Co-operatives in T.A.F.E. Colleges Advisory Committee
E.C.D.P. Funding Committee
Co-operative Societies Advisory Council;

(b) addressed a public meeting in Macedon considering formation of a Co-operative retail store;

(c) advised enquirers relating to the formation of
a Gold Mining Producers Co-operative
a Psychic Research Co-operative

(d) held two lengthy Press interviews with

*The Age
Employment Business Weekly*

(e) visited

*Maryborough Bootstrap Trading Co-operative
Maryborough Energy Research Co-operative
Bendigo Trading Co-operative*

- (f) discussed with San Remo Fishermen's Co-operative
the matter of terms of trading and members
liability for payment of interest on
overdue accounts.

8. TRADING CO-OPERATIVES ASSOCIATION

Mr. Long reported that the Annual General Meeting of this Association had agreed in principle that applications for membership from

Bendigo Trading Co-operative
Ballarat Trading Co-operative
Jillong Wholefoods Co-operative

would be favourably considered subject to the usual qualifications of membership being met.

9. CO-OPERATIVE RESEARCH IN VICTORIA

The Executive Officer advised that Mr. Gary Lewis will be undertaking research on Co-operatives in Victoria between 12th-18th June in connection with studies for a Ph.D. thesis at the Australian National University. In addition, Mr. Lewis will be recording discussions with Co-operative pioneers in Victoria for the Australian National Library Archives. Names of such pioneers would be welcomed to ensure the best record of background and Co-operative development in Victoria is made.

10. NEXT MEETING

Council agreed the next meeting will be held on 20th June 1983 at 225 Swanston Street, Melbourne.

11. CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.15 p.m.